Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAMILT 00239 032056Z

63
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03

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R 031842Z SEP 75
FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1846

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 239
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, MILI, PINT, BD
SUBJ: STATUS REPORT-LABOR TROUBLE NAS BERMUDA
REF: HAMILTON 225
1. THE FOLLOWING EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE OUR REFTEL (AUG. 15, 1975). (A) AUG. 20 BIU SENT LETTER TO UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (COPY FORWARDED DEPT BY AIRGRAM, INFO LONDON); (B) AUG. 27 PROTEST MARCH BY BIU TO NAS BERMUDA; (C) AUG. 27 PETITION TO CONAS CAPTAIN ANASTON (FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM); (D) AUG. 27 RECEIPT OF BIU LETTER BY STEVEDORING SERVICES (BERMUDA) LETTER WAS DATED AUG. 26. LETTER STATED PORT WORKERS DIVISION OF BIU HAD VOTED TO REFUSE TO DELIVER OR PICK UP GOODS CONSIGEND TO U.S. BASES UNTIL BIU-KWCC DISPUTE IS RESOLVED; (E) SEPT. 1 REPORT BY GOB LABOR RELATIONS OFFICER (LRO) AND KW ATTORNEYS HERE THAT KW NO PREPARING ITS OWN PLAN TO GRANT PRIVILEGES SIMILAR THOSE SOUGHT BY BIU (EXCEPT CHECK OFF).

PAGE 2 RUEBBRA6096 C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. AMPLIFICATION OF AND COMMENTS/ON THE ABOVE EVENTS FOLLOW: (A) THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR COMMENTING ON THE BIU LETTER TO CALAGHAN STATED THAT THE FCO MIGHT HAVE A WORD WITH U.S. EMBASSY LONDON EXPRESSING HOPE THE DISPUTE WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON BUT NO OTHER ACTION
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PAGE 02 HAMILT 00239 032056Z

WOULD, HE THOUGHT, BE CONTEMPLATED; (B) THE AUG. 27

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

PROTEST MARCH WAS A DEFEAT FOR BIU'S SIMMONS. ANALYZING
THE 200 ATTENDING MARCH AS 10-15 UNION OFFICIALS, THEIR
CLOSE ASSOCIATES, 40-50 SHOP STEWARDS, 60-70 STUDENTS AND
YOUNGSTERS PLUS A FEW UNEMPLOYED THAT LEFT LITTLE OTHER
UNION PARTICIPATION. NO KW WORKERS LEFT BASE JOB TO
PARTICIPATE. THERE WERE 36 NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES WORKERS
FROM VARIOUS GOB UNITS WHO PARTICIPATED. THEY WERE
DOCKED HALF A DAYS PAY AND ISSUED A WARNING AS WAS
PREVIOSLY ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THEIR
POSITION. ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WORKING
FOR FIRMS WITHIN THE EMPLOYEES COUNCIL ALSO MARCHED. THEY
WERE TREATED THE SAME WAY BY THEIR FIRMS AS THE GOB EMPLOYEES.
THERE WERE A FEW ANTI-BASE AGREEMENT SIGNS SUCH AS "GIVE
US BACK OU LAND" AND ""99 YEARS FOR WHAT". AT THE NAS

PAGE 3 RUEBBRA6096 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MAIN GATE SIMMONS SAID HE "WOULD NOT REST UNTIL ALL
IRON FENCES ON THE ISLAND WERE DOWN"- THE BASES ARE SO FENCED;
(C) THE AUG. 27 PETITION HELD NO SURPRISES AND NEITHER
THE GOB NOR THE GOVERNORS OFFICE HAD ANY SPECIFIC
COMMENTS. THE PETITION WAS FOLLOWED UP WITH A BIU LETTER
AUG. 29 TO CONAS FORWARDING AN EXTRACT FROM THE ICFTU
CHARTER OF TRADE UNION DEMANDS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL
OF MULTINATIONAL COS. (APPENDIX II 11GA/9 FORWARDED
BY AIRGRAM). THE UNION STATED THAT THE EXTRACT WOULD
HELP CONAS UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITION AND ASKED FOR
REPLY TO THEIR PETITION AT "YOUR VERY EARLIEST CONVENIENCE";
(D) THE PORT WORKERS DIVISION OF THE BIU DECISION TO
REFUSE DELIVERY OR PICK UP OF GOODS CONSIGNED TO U.S. BASES
WAS SHORT LIVED. STEVEDORING SERVICES POINTED OUT THAT
THE DOCK WORKERS WERE IN VIOLATION OF THE GOB LABOR
RELATIONS ACT. THE EMBARGO WAS NEVER ENFORCED AND AS
OF 2 SEPT. GOODS ARE MOVING TO THE U.S. BASES; (E) WE DO
NOT HAVE DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ON THE KW PLAN FOR BENEFITS
TO KW LOCAL EMPLOYEES AT NAS. LRO PERSTON SAYS THE
INSURANCE BENEFITS ARE OVERALL BETTER THAN THE BIUS.

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PAGE 03 HAMILT 00239 032056Z

PAGE 4 RUEBBRA6096 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THE VACATION PLAN HAS YET OT BE DISCLOSED. PERSTON
DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL END SIMMONS DEMANDS WHICH ARE
UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO THE UNION AND WHICH IS THE ONLY
WAY HE CAN ACHIEVE THE PERSONAL LAURELS HE FEELS
ARE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO REMAIN A POLITICAL POTENTIAL.
HOWEVER, THESE MOVES IF EFFECTUATED AND IF EQUAL TO BIU

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

BENEFITS WILL REMOVE ANY SHRED OF CREDITABILITY TO SIMMONS DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN, UNDERPRIVILIEGED KW WORKERS.

3. FINAL COMMENT: IF KW DOES PROVIDE THE BENEFITS AS REPORTED ABOVE, THE GOB WILL BELIEVE ITS UNOFFICIAL, INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED. NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE EMPLOYERS COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO SEE SIMMONS SUCCESSFUL. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, THEY ARE MAKING A POINT OF STAYING OUT OF DIRECT CONTACT OR OPOSITION EXCEPT ON THE MATTER OF THE TIME OFF TO MARCH WHICH IS COVERED THOROUGHLY IN THEIR CONTRACTS WITH THE BIU AND THEREFORE FULLY JUSTIFIED AND DEFENSIBLE. WE WILL REPORT BIU AND GOB REACTIONS ONCE THE KW BENEFITS PACKAGE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AND IS THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD. NO FURTHER ACTION IS BELIEVED NECESSARY AT THIS TIME PENDING SURFACING OF THE PRIVILEGES PACKAGE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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